Labour Market Bulletin

Manitoba

April 2018

This Labour Market Bulletin provides an analysis of Labour Force Survey results for the province of Manitoba, including the regions of Winnipeg, Northern Manitoba and Southern Manitoba.

OVERVIEW

Employment

Employment in Manitoba increased last month (+4,100) and showed modest growth (+5,900) compared to the same time last year.[1] In the past month, full-time employment in Manitoba increased by 4,500 (+0.9%), while part-time employment decreased slightly by 300 (–0.2%).[2] Employment in the public sector remained relatively unchanged at 164,500 (+0.8%), while the private sector increased to 390,400 (+0.9%). Self-employment decreased to 92,400 (-0.9%).[3]

Manitoba's skilled workforce is expected to grow in 2018, following federal approval to raise the cap on Manitoba's provincial nominee program from 5,000 to 5,700.[4] The new cap will help Manitoba's labour force grow by attracting additional skilled workers, international students, and entrepreneurs. Nonetheless, the Conference Board of Canada forecasts employment growth in Manitoba will be slow until 2019.[5]

Unemployment

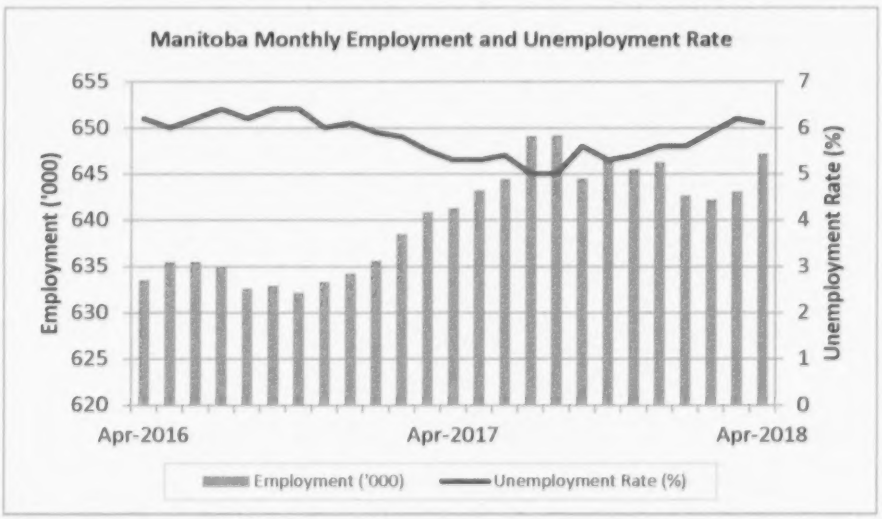
Last month, Manitoba's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 6.1%, and it should remain steady at that rate over the next few months. By the end of the year, however, Manitoba's economy could face unpredictable cross winds that may have a negative impact on the labour market. North American Free Trade Agreement negotiations remain unresolved, and a growing number of international trade disputes around the world could hurt Manitoba's leading export industries, manufacturing and agriculture.[6,7]

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Data	April 2018	March 2018	April 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Population 15 + ('000)	1,022.7	1,021.5	1,010.4	1.2	0.1	12.3	1.2
Labour Force ('000)	689.5	685.8	677.3	3.7	0.5	12.2	1.8
Employment ('000)	647.2	643.1	641.3	4.1	0.6	5.9	0.9
Full-Time ('000)	517.0	512.5	518.3	4.5	0.9	-1.3	-0.3
Part-Time ('000)	130.3	130.6	123.0	-0.3	-0.2	7.3	5.9
Unemployment ('000)	42.3	42.6	36.0	-0.3	-0.7	6.3	17.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	6.1	6.2	5.3	-0.1	-	0.8	-
Participation Rate (%)	67.4	67.1	67.0	0.3	-	0.4	-
Employment Rate (%)	63.3	63.0	63.5	0.3	-	-0.2	-

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey - CANSIM Table 282-0087



The unemployment rate for those aged 15-24 remained steady at 11.9%. The unemployment rate for those aged 25 years and older also remained relatively unchanged at 5.0%.

Compared to last year, the rate of youth unemployment increased by 1.0 percentage points, and the unemployment rate for 25 years and older increased by 0.7 percentage points. For both age groups, the increase contrasted with improvements seen nationwide (-0.5 and -0.6 points, respectively).[8]

Manitoba Monthly Unemployment Rates, by Gender and Age

Seasonally Adjusted Data	April 2018 (%)	March 2018 (%)	April 2017 (%)	Monthly Variation (% points)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Total	6.1	6.2	5.3	-0.1	0.8
25 years and over	5.0	5.1	4.3	-0.1	0.7
Men - 25 years and over	5.5	5.5	4.7	0.0	0.8
Women - 25 years and over	4.5	4.8	3.8	-0.3	0.7
15 to 24 years	11.9	11.9	10.9	0.0	1.0
Men - 15 to 24 years	14.1	14.7	12.5	-0.6	1.6
Women - 15 to 24 years	9.6	9.1	9.3	0.5	0.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0087

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Manitoba's goods-producing sector employed 4,700 (-3.1%) less workers compared to the same time last year. The employment losses were significant in manufacturing (-3,100), construction (-3,100), and utilities (-2,100). Over the same period, there was moderate growth in agriculture (+4,400). However, employment in agriculture may be negatively impacted this year due to recent warm temperatures, a dry winter, and low spring-rainfall creating dry soil conditions across southern Manitoba, all increasing the risk of drought.[9,10]

The construction industry may recover over the summer as large non-residential construction projects ramp up across the province, such as the Waverley Underpass Project in Winnipeg and Manitoba Hydro's Bipole III transmission line within the Interlake.

In the past month, employment growth in the goods-producing sector was led by strong gains in manufacturing (+2,600). Employment also increased in agriculture (+400), and forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas (+300). Employment in utilities (-100) and construction remain relatively unchanged. While employment in construction is anticipated to grow over the next few months, Manitoba's manufacturing industry will take a moderate hit later this summer following the closure of Vale's smelter and refinery in Thompson.[11]

Compared to April 2017, employment within the services-producing sector grew across the province, by 10,500 (+2.2%). There was modest growth in healthcare and social services (+5,500), other services (+3,100), and educational services (+1,500). Over the same period, employment decreased in retail and wholesale trade (-2,100).

In the past month, employment growth was led by job gains in the public sector: educational services (+1,200), health care and social assistance (+1,700), and public administration (+1,300). Nonetheless, the job gains were mostly offset by losses in private sector industries, including other services (-1,100), accommodation and food services (-1,000), and finance insurance, real estate and leasing (-1,000). With the upcoming tourist season, employment in retail, and accommodation and food services, may receive a boost over the next few months, as the province benefits from a low Canadian dollar, anticipated warm weather, and the current success of the Winnipeg Jets' National Hockey League Stanley Cup playoff run.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Industry

Seasonally Adjusted Data ('000)	April 2018	March 2018	April 2017	Monthly Variation		Yearly Variation	
				Number	%	Number	%
Total employed, all industries	647.3	643.1	641.3	4.2	0.7	6.0	0.9
Goods-producing sector	149.2	145.8	153.9	3.4	2.3	-4.7	-3.1
Agriculture	26.8	26.4	22.4	0.4	1.5	4.4	19.6
Forestry, fishing, mining, quarrying, oil and gas	6.7	6.4	7.5	0.3	4.7	-0.8	-10.7
Utilities	7.2	7.3	9.6	-0.1	-1.4	-2.4	-25.0
Construction	46.2	46.2	49.3	0.0	0.0	-3.1	-6.3
Manufacturing	62.2	59.6	65.3	2.6	4.4	-3.1	-4.7
Services-producing sector	498.0	497.3	487.3	0.7	0.1	10.7	2.2
Trade	89.4	90.2	91.5	-0.8	-0.9	-2.1	-2.3
Transportation and warehousing	37.6	36.7	37.4	0.9	2.5	0.2	0.5
Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing	36.0	37.0	36.7	-1.0	-2.7	-0.7	-1.9
Professional, scientific and technical services	28.3	29.1	28.6	-0.8	-2.7	-0.3	-1.0
Business, building and other support services	18.8	18.6	18.3	0.2	1.1	0.5	2.7
Educational services	53.0	51.8	49.9	1.2	2.3	3.1	6.2
Health care and social assistance	106.1	104.4	100.6	1.7	1.6	5.5	5.5
Information, culture and recreation	23.3	23.0	23.4	0.3	1.3	-0.1	-0.4
Accommodation and food services	42.8	43.8	41.3	-1.0	-2.3	1.5	3.6
Other services	29.6	30.7	26.2	-1.1	-3.6	3.4	13.0
Public administration	33.3	32.0	33.4	1.3	4.1	-0.1	-0.3

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0088

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Within the past year, employment grew in all the economic regions of Manitoba, with the exception of the Interlake area. However, the unemployment rate increased in Winnipeg, Interlake, and Parklands and North.

Manitoba Monthly Labour Force Statistics, by Economic Region

3-Month Moving Averages Seasonally Unadjusted Data	Employment			Unemployment Rate		
	April 2018 ('000)	April 2017 ('000)	Yearly Variation (%)	April 2018 (%)	April 2017 (%)	Yearly Variation (% points)
Manitoba	637.0	633.4	0.6	6.3	5.6	0.7
Economic Regions						
Southeast	60.8	60.7	0.2	5.2	5.3	-0.1
South Central and North Central	54.6	54.3	0.6	3.0	3.6	-0.6
Southwest	54.7	53.9	1.5	5.0	5.8	-0.8
Winnipeg	385.5	381.4	1.1	7.1	6.3	0.8
Interlake	45.3	47.2	-4.0	6.8	4.1	2.7
Parklands and North	36.1	36.0	0.3	6.2	4.8	1.4

Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Source: Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey – CANSIM Table 282-0122

Since April 2017, employment within Southeast grew by 0.2%, and the unemployment rate remained relatively unchanged at 5.2%. Seeding has begun across the region; however, the region remains at risk of drought due to anticipated drier weather conditions this summer, which poses a threat to crops and livestock.

Between April 2017 and April 2018, Winnipeg saw employment increase by 1.1%. Over the same period, the unemployment rate grew by 0.8 percentage points to 7.1%. Nonetheless, new construction projects are ramping up such as Richardson International's new $30 million innovation centre, and Best Western's new Premier Hotel. Additionally, the City of Winnipeg awarded renovation grants to 14 community centres.[12,13,14]

Winnipeg has the potential for becoming Canada's new video game development hub after Ubisoft Studios Canada announced it will soon open its fifth Canadian studio in Winnipeg later this year. The France-based company plans to invest $35 million and create up to 100 new jobs over the next five years.

Employment within Southwest grew by 1.5%, and its unemployment rate decreased by 0.8 percentage points. Recently Hylife completed its $176 million expansion and modernization of its processing plant in Neepawa, in addition to construction of a new feed mill in Killarney and new barns in western Manitoba, creating 165 new jobs.[15] Unfortunately, delays during construction of Roquette's new pea protein processing facility in Portage La Prairie have pushed the operation date to 2020.[16]

Compared to April 2017, employment in Parklands and North remained relatively unchanged at 36,100 (+0.3%). Nonetheless, employment within the region is expected to decline later this year, as Vale Canada Ltd. intends to end its smelting and refining operations in Thompson on July 31, 2018. The company issued 169 layoff notices to employees so far, as the company continues to focus on its mining and milling operations.[17]

Many remote communities across northern Manitoba can now only be accessed by air or water until next winter, as the provincial government closed several major winter roads and determined them unsafe for travel.[18,19] Despite access to the Nutrition North Canada subsidy program, the cost of goods and services will increase due to higher transportation costs.

***Note**: In preparing this document, the authors have taken care to provide clients with labour market information that is timely and accurate at the time of publication. Since labour market conditions are dynamic, some of the information presented here may have changed since this document was published. Users are encouraged to also refer to other sources for additional information on the local economy and labour market. Information contained in this document does not necessarily reflect official policies of Employment and Social Development Canada.*

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***For information on the Labour Force Survey**, please visit the Statistics Canada Web site at: www.statcan.gc.ca*

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[1] Statistics Canada. Table 282-0087 – Labour Force Survey estimates (LFS), by sex and age group, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, quarterly (persons unless otherwise noted), CANSIM (database). (accessed May 11, 2018)

[2] Statistics Canada. Table 282-0087 - Labour Force Survey estimates (LFS), by sex and age group, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, monthly (persons unless otherwise noted), CANSIM (database). (accessed: May 11, 2018)

[3] Statistics Canada. Table 282-0089 - Labour Force Survey estimates (LFS), employment by class of worker and sex, seasonally adjusted and unadjusted, monthly (persons), CANSIM (database). (accessed: May 11, 2018)

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